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January 8, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

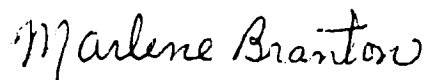
Dear Attorney General Ashcroft,

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to you today to express my support for the settlement reached in the Microsoft antitrust dispute. The litigation was unwarranted. The end has come. And the technology industry can finally return to normal.

Microsoft did not escape this litigation without compromise. The company agrees to restrict its business practices as to not retaliate against companies that develop or promote competing products. Protocols that can benefit other companies will now have to be disclosed. To assure compliance, Microsoft will be subject to the all-new technical review committee, which will also sometimes manage disputes other firms have with Microsoft.

Microsoft has been generous in its compromises to competitors. Microsoft should be allowed to focus on business now. The IT community needs it. Our economy needs it. Please continue to support this settlement, and work through the appropriate channels to have it enacted permanently.

Sincerely,



Marlene Branton

cc: Senator Rick Santorum